



# **Program Overview Document**

## **Maryland Offshore Wind Supply Chain Investment Program**

### **Fiscal Year 2024**

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**Program Description :** The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is excited to announce the Maryland Offshore Wind Supply Chain Investment Program (the Program) for Fiscal Year 2024. The Program provides **grant funding** on a **non-competitive basis** to support new or existing businesses entering the offshore wind supply chain in Maryland. The program has multiple Areas of Interest (AOI) including:

- AOI 1: Market Entry Report and Planning
- AOI 2: Capital Expenditures
- AOI 3: Industry Events

***Applications will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis until February 1, 2024 or until all program funding has been awarded.***

Proposals must come from organizations interested in entering the offshore wind industry and are able to contribute to Maryland's offshore wind supply chain and workforce through their industry participation. Offshore wind is a growing clean-energy industry in Maryland, and proposals should assist new or existing businesses to enter the state's offshore wind supply chain.

MEA highly encourages applications from new or existing emerging businesses, including minority, woman, and veteran owned emerging businesses, seeking to enter the offshore wind industry. MEA will also consider applications from businesses willing to relocate or expand into Maryland contingent upon receiving a grant award.

**MEA understands there are environmental impacts and climate risks that disproportionately impact historically disenfranchised groups and strongly encourages members of these groups to apply to the program.**

**Type of Program:**

**Non-competitive**

**Application Deadline:**

**Applications will be accepted on a first come-first serve until 5:00 P.M. EST, Thursday, February 1, 2024 or until all program funding has been awarded, whichever occurs first.**

**Areas of Interest:**

**The Fiscal Year 2024 Maryland Offshore Wind Supply Chain Investment Program is split into the following three (3) Areas of Interest (AOIs).**

Area of Interest	Description
1. Market Entry Report and Planning	<p>Funds are provided under AOI 1 to help offset the costs of retaining a consultant to develop a market entry plan for eligible businesses looking to enter the offshore wind industry. These activities include helping the business determine 1) the offshore wind business opportunities present 2) targeted level of sales, 3) the specific product or service for export, 4) the target market, 5) major milestones and a timeline for completion, and 6) a budget and available resources for achieving these goals.</p> <p><b>See the AOI 1 FOA for full details and requirements.</b></p>
2. Capital Expenditures	<p>Funds are provided under AOI 2 to help offset the capital expenditures needed for the organization to enter the offshore wind industry as detailed in their Market Entry Report. Eligible expenses include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Relocation costs, new construction of real property, and renovations to existing real property; and,</li></ol>

	<p>2. Purchase and installation of equipment at a new or existing real property(s).</p> <p><b>See AOI 2 FOA for full details and requirements.</b></p>
<p>3. Industry Events</p>	<p>Funds are provided under AOI 3 to help offset the costs associated with attending offshore wind industry events. Eligible applicants may receive a one time reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for attending eligible industry events.</p> <p><b>See AOI 3 FOA for full details and requirements.</b></p>

**Eligible Applicants:** Organizations eligible to apply under the Maryland Offshore Wind Supply Chain Investment Program must fit within the definition of an “Emerging Business.” For purposes of this program, an “Emerging Business” is defined, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 9-20C-01(e), as “a business that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who are certified to have a personal net worth, as defined in §14-301 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, that does not exceed \$6,500,000 as adjusted each year for inflation according to the Consumer Price Index.”

**Applicants that do not meet the Emerging Business definition are not eligible to receive grant funding from the Program.**

**Eligible Activities:** Activities eligible for funding under the Maryland Offshore Wind Capital Expenditure Program are specific to each AOI and are listed in **each AOI’s respective FOA** at the end of this Program Overview Document.

**Funding:** A total of up to \$1,500,000 is anticipated to be available, split between the AOIs, as detailed in the following table. MEA at its sole discretion may reallocate funds between AOIs based upon demand, quality of applications, and funding availability. **Additional funding restrictions** are specific to each AOI and explained in **each AOI’s respective FOA** at the end of this Program Overview Document.

Area of Interest	Anticipated Funding Availability
1. Market Entry Report and Planning	\$ 250,000
2. Capital Expenditures	\$ 1,000,000
3. Industry Events	\$250,000

*Please Note: MEA is seeking a budget amendment which, if approved, would increase total Program funding from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.*

**Minimum Eligibility Criteria:** Minimum Eligibility Criteria are specific to each AOI and are explained in **each AOI’s respective FOA** at the end of this Program Overview Document.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Evaluation Criteria are specific to each AOI and are explained in **each AOI’s respective FOA** at the end of this Program Overview Document

**Application Documents:** Documents required to complete an application package are specific to each AOI, and information on how to prepare an application can be found in each AOI’s respective FOA at the end of this Program Overview Document.

**Grant Program General Provisions:** MEA grant programs are covered by general requirements that will be made part of the grant agreement between MEA and a grantee. A copy of the General Provisions document is available on MEA’s website; this document will be incorporated into all MEA Fiscal Year 2024 grant agreements.

**Submission Instructions:** The Program utilizes an online application portal, Jotform, that all applicants are required to use when submitting grant applications. The online application portal is accessible through MEA’s website. MEA will not consider administratively incomplete applications. Applications must include all of the materials provided within “Application and Required Documents” **detailed in each AOI’s respective FOA** at the end of this Program Overview Document.

**Questions:** Interested applicants may submit questions, comments, concerns and/or suggestions to the following MEA staff members:

**Primary**  
 Emma Stoney  
 Energy Program Manager

**Alternate**  
 Samuel Beirne  
 Energy Program Team Lead

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